

Secretary of State Condi Rice appeared before our Appropriations Committee today. I asked her about Israel's safety and the new Hamas terrorist government that took power on the West Bank last week.

I highlighted a key area of concern. U.S. taxpayer money should never support Hamas or its front organizations. Over the last year, the U.S. provided over \$80 million to the UNRWA, an agency that works in the West Bank and Gaza. Unfortunately, some UNWRA vans have been used in moving weapons for terrorists. UNRWA does not allow its finances to be audited by outsiders or even the UN Secretary General himself.

UNWRA does produce a "report" on its finances. Unfortunately, this self report says little about the organization. The last report by UNRWA showed 19 accounts totalling over \$40 million with no information on how taxpayer funding was spent. When my staff asked for more details, we were denied. We asked how many UNRWA staff ran in the recent elections. We were again told that we cannot have that information.

I care deeply about the safety of our allies in Israel, including leading U.S. congressional missions on behalf of Project Interchange (2001), the Jewish Federation (2003) and the Friends of the IDF (2005). I am working now with Democratic and Republican leaders to insist on outside accounting by UNRWA and a total cutoff of funds for Hamas.